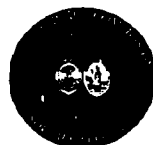


Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
 1 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
 Columbia, SC 29210



2009-327-E  
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# Complaint Form

PSC SC  
 DOCKETING DEPT.

**Print**

Date: August 3, 2009

## Complainant or Legal Representative Information:

\* Required Fields

Name \* Michelle and James Smith

Firm (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \* 35 Rainbow Road

City, State Zip \* Bluffton, SC 29910 Phone \* 804-539-9642

E-mail \* bwr@hargray.com

Name of Utility Involved in Complaint: \* SCE&G

Type of Complaint (check appropriate box below.) \*

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billing Error/Adjustments  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deposits and Credit Establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong Rate    | <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal to Connect Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disconnection of Service   | <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Arrangements              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Line Extension Issue       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Issue  | <input type="checkbox"/> Meter Issue                       |  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (be specific) <u>Installation of high voltage power lines in neighborhood</u> |  |  |   |

Have you contacted the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)? \* ☒ Yes ☐ No

Name of  
 ORS Contact: Michael Seaman-Huynh

**Concise Statement of Facts/Complaint:** \* (This section must be completed. Attach additional information to this page if necessary.)

1. SCE&G installed approximately 115-foot-tall high voltage power lines along Gibbet Road in Bluffton, SC. As residents in the neighborhood, we have concerns regarding property devaluation and negative health effects. We also consider the lines to be visual blight, detrimental to the value of property in the area, offensive to the senses, and unfavorable to the character and aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood.
2. SCE&G did not choose the most direct route for the lines, even though the land was available. SCE&G chose a zig-zag pattern for the installation of the lines, diverting from wealthier neighborhoods and selecting the route of a lower income neighborhood. These SCE&G high voltage lines then go on to service primarily higher income residents in the areas of Palmetto Bluff and Daufuskie Island, SC.
3. Our neighborhood is serviced by Palmetto Electric, not SCE&G. In speaking with ORS's Michael Seaman today, he said that our neighborhood "benefits" from the installation of the lines because Palmetto Electric purchases from SCE&G. This is not true. Palmetto Electric purchases from Santee Cooper.
4. SCE&G failed to notify residents in the neighborhood of Gibbet Road who purchased property after August 18, 2005 of the permitting approval for the high voltage power lines. My husband and I purchased our home in August 2006. We had no knowledge of the transmission line route until waking up one morning a week or so ago and seeing the quiet, old country road we live off of transformed into an industrial-looking thoroughfare. My husband and I would likely not have purchased a home in the neighborhood of the power lines, and we certainly would not have paid as much for our property had we known of the impending installation.
5. SCE&G apparently used intimidation tactics in securing rights to property owners' land to construct the towers.

**Relief Requested:** \* (This section must be completed. Attach additional information to this page if necessary.)

1. Because of the negative effects of the lines, as described above, I would like to see utility companies be required by law to post signs advertising the permitting approval along the intended route until construction commences. This is only fair to potential home buyers.
2. I would like to see SCE&G be required to bury the high voltage lines along Gibbet Road. I think the one million per mile cost would be money well spent.
3. If the lines cannot be buried, I would like to see the lines routed through a more direct and less developed area.

4. If the towers must stay, I would like all residents in the neighborhood, regardless of whether a tower is physically on their property, be fairly compensated for the devaluation of their property.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

**VERIFICATION**COUNTY OF Beaufort )I, Michelle Smith  
Complainant's Name \*verify that I have read my complaint filed on 08/03/2009  
Date \*

and know the contents thereof, and that said contents are true.

Michelle Smith  
Complainant's Signature \*

## Internal Use Only

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Bluffton Today editorial cartoon  
Sunday, August 2, 2009